



S.C. Computer / Genealogy Special Interest Group

Searching FamilySearch.org,

Part 2:

Five Tips to Search for Names

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November 09, 2012***

Wouldn't it be great if FamilySearch could read your mind and find the exact information you need about your ancestor? Do you ever get frustrated when you put in your search terms and the results are not what you expect or want? There are some things you can do to get better and more accurate results. This month's presentation provides five tips for finding your ancestors' names on FamilySearch.org.



Five Tips To Search FamilySearch.org Historical Records

1. Enter Names

2. Add a Life Event

**3. Add a
Relationship:
Spouse and/or
Parents**

**4. Filter Your
Results**

5. Browse Images



The Five Tips

Home Page

Discover Your Family History

Records Trees Catalog Books

Our records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extracted, and more.

First Names: Harry Last Names: Flanagan

Search by Life Events: Any | Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death

Search by Relationships: Spouse | Parents

Search by: Batch Number

Search Match All Exactly Reset Form

1

2

3

5

New York, New York, Index to Passenger Lists, 1820-1846

Browse Images

10 Jun 2011

Results Page

Refine your search

First Names: Harry

Last Names: Flanagan

Search by Life Events: Any | Birth | Marriage | Residence | Death

Search by Relationships: Spouse | Parents

Match All Exactly

Search Reset Form

Filter your results by:

- Learn more
- Collections
- Birthplace
- Birth Year
- Marriage Place
- Marriage Year
- Residence Place
- Residence Year
- Death Place
- Death Year
- Other Place
- Other Year
- Gender

2

3

4



Tip #1: Enter Names (Home Page)

First Names

Last Names

Search by Life Events: [Any](#) | [Birth](#) | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#)

Search by Relationships: [Spouse](#) | [Parents](#)

Match All Exactly

[Reset Form](#)



Enter First Name

First Names Last Names

EXACT

- Try adding or omitting middle names.
- Try nicknames.
- Try spelling variations.
- If the individual moved to a new country, try spelling the name as it is spelled in the old country and in the new one.
- Try using wildcards. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.)
- Leave this field and the Last Name field blank. Then click **Spouse** or **Parents**, and enter the names of the individual's parents or spouse.
- Please note: you can't press TAB and move from the First Name box to the Last Name box
- EXACT box: to search a name spelled exactly.



Enter Last Name

- Try spelling and language variations.
- Look for women using both a maiden name and married name.
- Try using wildcards. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.) More on the next slide.
- Leave this field and the First Name fields blank. Then click **Spouse** or **Parents**, and enter the names of the individual's parents or spouse.
- If you do not know a woman's maiden name, enter her first name, and leave the last name blank. Then click **Parents**, and enter the names of her father and mother.
- You can use the EXACT box for last names too. Repeat the search if you think you know exact names and places.



WildCards

- Wildcards improve your search results when you can know only some of the characters in a name or place. The unknown characters might be illegible on a record. Or perhaps a name was spelled in various ways. Wildcards broaden your search to account for these types of variations.
- You can use these wildcards:
 - ? Use this wildcard to represent any one character
 - * Use this wildcard to represent zero or more characters
- You can use both wildcards in the same search.
- To use a wildcard, the word must have at least three other letters.
 - Use this: Joh* but not this: Jo*
 - Birt* returns words that begin with birth, such as birth, births, birthday
 - Fa?e returns words face, fame, fate, and others
- To see how many spellings YOUR name has, check out the Name Thesaurus web page,
<http://www.namethesaurus.com/Thesaurus/Search.aspx>
(This webpage shows 243 ways of spelling Smith !!)



Wild Cards

- Where is Harry Flanagan?
- Problem: Searched for Harry Flanagan, born in Detroit in the 1940 U.S. Census without success.
- Solution: Search for Harry Flanagan using the wild card *, Harry Flan*
- Found Harry in Detroit, Wayne, Michigan with last name spelled “Flannigan”

Harry Flannigan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1922 Michigan residence: 1940 Ward 10, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	parents: Thelma Flannigan
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- Problem: Can't find Jack Tarbron in the 1940 Census.
- Solution: Search for Jack T?rbr?n in Detroit, Wayne, Michigan
- Found Jack there with last name spelled “Turbrin.”



Results for "Harry Flanagan" (25,000+)

Refine your search

Search Results for Historical Records

1-20 of 25,333 results for >Name: **Harry Flanagan**

First Names

Last Names

Search by Life Events:
Any
Birth
Marriage
Residence
Death

Search by Relationships:
Spouse
Parents

Match All Exactly

Try adding more search terms to improve your search results:

Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1923 Kansas residence: 1940 Ward 5, Atchison, Atchison City, Atchison, Kansas, United States	parents: Earl J Truitt, Sarah Truitt	▼
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1890 Virginia residence: 1940 Virginia Beach, Lynnhaven Magisterial District, Princess Anne, Virginia, United States	spouse: Clara Flanagan child: Helen Flanagan	▼
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1887 New York residence: 1940 Election Precinct 14, Dade, Florida, United States	spouse: Ida Flanagan children: Melvin G Flanagan, Harry E Flanagan	▼
Harry E Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1917 Florida residence: 1940 Election Precinct 14, Dade, Florida, United States	parents: Harry Flanagan, Ida Flanagan	▼
Harry J Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1914 Louisiana residence: 1940 Ward 4, New Orleans, New Orleans City, Orleans, Louisiana, United States	parents: May M Flanagan	▼
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1931 Louisiana residence: 1940 Zwolle, Police Jury Ward 8, Sabine, Louisiana, United States	parents: L A Flanagan, Mattie Flanagan	▼
Harry J Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1929 South Dakota residence: 1940 Lake Andes City, Lake Andes, Charles Mix, South Dakota, United States	parents: Robert T Flanagan, Florence Flanagan	▼
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1908 Indiana residence: 1940 Ward 1, Winchester, White River Township, Randolph, Indiana, United States	parents: Mattie Flanagan	▼
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1923 Iowa residence: 1940 Ward 1, Des Moines, Des Moines Township, Polk, Iowa, United States	parents: James Flanagan, Mary Flanagan	▼
Harry E Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1890 Iowa residence: 1940 Ward 5, Lincoln, Lincoln City, Lancaster, Nebraska, United States	spouse: Imogene Flanagan	▼
Harry E Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1893 North Dakota residence: 1940 Mill Valley, Sausalito Judicial Township, Marin, California, United States	spouse: Kathryn Flanagan	▼

Filter your results by:
[Learn more](#)

Collections

Birthplace

Birth Year

Marriage Place

Marriage Year

Residence Place

Residence Year

Death Place

Death Year

Other Place

Other Year

Gender



Tip #2: Add a Life Event: Residence

Results Page

Home Page

First Names
Harry

Last Names
Flanagan

Residence Place

Year (Range)
From To

Search by Life Events: Any | Birth | Marriage | **Residence** | Death

Search by Relationships: Spouse | Parents

Refine your search ▲

First Names
Harry

Last Names
Flanagan

Search by Life Events:
Any
Birth
Marriage

Residence Place

Year (Range)
From To

Death

Search by Life Event: Residence Place & Year on Results Page

Refine your search ▲

First Names

Harry

Last Names

Flanagan

Search by Life Events:

Any

Birth

Marriage

Residence Place

Detroit, Wayne, Michigan

Year (Range)

1940 1940

Death

Search by Relationships:

Spouse

Parents

Match All Exactly

Search Reset Form

Search Results for Historical Records

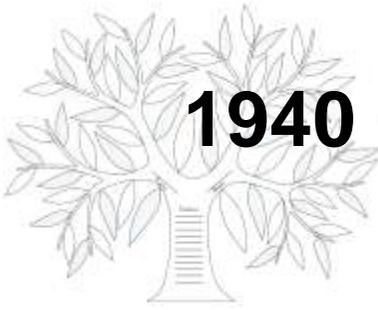
1-11 of 11 results for >Name: Harry Flanagan, Event: Residence, Place: Detroit, Wayne, Michigan, Event Range: 1940-1940

Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1890 Canada residence: 1940 Ward 10, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1900 Pennsylvania residence: 1940 Ward 21, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	spouse: Anna Flanagan children: Charles Flannagan, Rosemary Flanagan...
Harry Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1927 Michigan residence: 1940 Ward 21, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	parents: Harry Flanagan, Anna Flanagan
Harry Flannigan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1922 Michigan residence: 1940 Ward 10, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	parents: Thelma Flannigan
The following results don't strongly match what you searched for, but may be of interest:		
Samuel H Flanagan United States Census, 1940	birth: 1890 Michigan residence: 1940 Ward 8, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States	spouse: Gertrude I. Flanagan

parents: Thelma Flannigan

name:	Harry Flannigan
event:	Census
event year:	1940
event place:	Ward 10, Detroit, Detroit City, Wayne, Michigan, United States
gender:	Male
age:	18
marital status:	Single
race (original):	White
race (standardized):	White
relationship to head of household (original):	Son
relationship to head of household (standardized):	Son
birthplace:	Michigan
estimated birth year:	1922
residence in 1935:	Same Place
enumeration district number:	84-525
family number:	149
sheet number and letter:	7A
line number:	13
nara publication number:	T627
nara roll number:	1856
digital folder number:	005461806

1940 Census for Harry Flannigan (Flanagan)

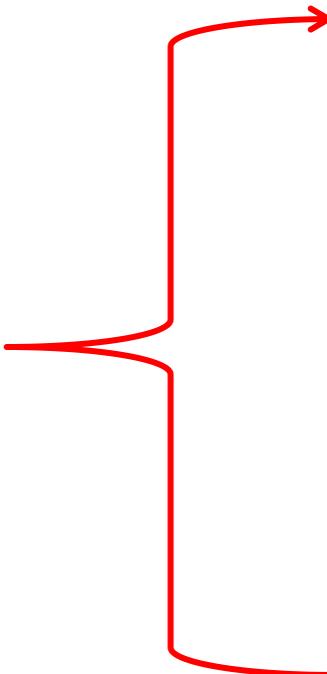


11		5461/49 R. 30	No	FLANNIGAN, THREMA ^(X)	HEAD	0	F	W	46	W	Yes	8	6	MICHIGAN
12	H			_____ , JAMES	SON	2	M	W	20	S	No	H2	10	MICHIGAN
13				_____ , Harry	SON	2	M	W	18	S	No	H2	10	MICHIGAN
14				_____ , MARJORIE	DAUGHTER	2	F	W	16	S	Yes	H2	10	MICHIGAN
15				_____ , EDWARD	SON	2	M	W	15	S	Yes	H2	10	MICHIGAN



All Life Events

Life Events



Discover Your Family History

[Records](#) [Trees](#) [Catalog](#) [Books](#)

Our records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extracted, and more.

First Names	Last Names
<input type="text" value="Harry"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="Flanagan"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Any Place	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="From"/> <input type="text" value="To"/>

Birthplace	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="From"/> <input type="text" value="To"/>

Marriage Place	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="From"/> <input type="text" value="To"/>

Residence Place	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="From"/> <input type="text" value="To"/>

Death Place	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="From"/> <input type="text" value="To"/>

Search by Life Events: [Any](#) | [Birth](#) | [Marriage](#) | [Residence](#) | [Death](#)

Search by Relationships: [Spouse](#) | [Parents](#)

Search by: [Batch Number](#)

Match All Exactly [Reset Form](#)



Tips for Using Life Events

- 1. ANY:** To find a date and place of any event on a record. Using the Any option is helpful if you know dates and places of military enlistment, emigration or immigration, court or probate events, and other events that are not birth, marriage, death, or residence. **Tip:** Another reason to use the Any event in a search is to find all of the records about an individual or family who lived in the same place. You can do a single search to see all of the records. This type of search works best when you are looking for individuals and families with less common names.
- 2. BIRTH:** To find a date and place listed as a birth or christening on a record.
- 3. MARRIAGE:** To find a date and place listed as a marriage-related event on a record.
- 4. RESIDENCE:** To find a date and place listed on records that indicate where an individual lived, such as census records. Birthplaces, marriage places, and death places are not the same as residence places because someone may have been away from home when these events occurred.
- 5. DEATH:** To find a date and place listed as a death, burial, or cremation on a record.
6. If you open an event and decide to not use it, click the **X** associated with the event. You do not need to delete the information from the field. Then enter the names in the fields provided.
7. Be aware that your search results will include only records that contain the relationships you specify. If you include a spouse's name, for example, your search results will not contain any record that does not specifically list the spouse's name as a husband or wife.

Entering Information into the Live Events: Places and Years



Residence Place	Year (Range)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> From <input type="text"/> To <input type="text"/>

PLACE: In the place field, try these tips:

- Try searching at a more or less specific place level. For example, if you searched for a town, try the country, state, or district instead. Try entering just county name.
- Try using wildcards in place-names. (Enter * to replace zero or more characters. Enter ? to replace one character.)
- Remove the place from your search. Instead, use the filters on the left side of the search results to narrow your search by place.

YEAR: In the year fields, try these tips:

- Increase or decrease the year range.
- Try searching with no years. Instead, use the filters on the left side of the search results to narrow your search by year.
- Try either a beginning year or end year.



Tip #3: Add a Relationship: Spouse, Parents

- Use the same tips as for the individual's first and last names.
- When entering the names of mothers or wives, try searching by the woman's married name and maiden name. If you do not know her maiden name, leave the Last Name field blank.

First Names	Last Names
Effie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Search by Life Events: Any Birth Marriage Residence Death	
Father's First Names	Father's Last Names
Robert <input type="checkbox"/>	Ellis <input type="checkbox"/>
Mother's First Names	Mother's Last Names
Mary <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Search by Relationships: Spouse Parents	



Relationship: Parents

Refine your search ▲ **Search Results for Historical Records**
1-20 of 27 results for >Name: **Effie Ellis**, Event: **Residence**, Place: **Kentucky**, Father Name: **Robert Ellis**, Mother Name: **Mary**

None of these results strongly match what you searched for. The following results may still be of interest.

Effie Ellis United States Census, 1880	birth: 1875 Kentucky, United States residence: 1880 Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky, United States	parents: Mollie Ellis name: Effie Ellis event: Census event date: 1880 event place: Louisville, Jefferson, Kentucky, United States gender: Female age: 5 marital status: Single occupation: At Home race or color (original): White ethnicity (standardized): American relationship to head: Daughter birthplace: Kentucky, United States birthdate: 1875 father's name: Robert Ellis father's birthplace: Kentucky, United States mother's name: Mollie Ellis mother's birthplace: Kentucky, United States page: 246 page character: 8 entry number: 3395 nara film number: T9-0423 gs film number: 1254423 digital folder number: 004241174
Effie Ellis United States Census, 1940	birth: 1901 Kentucky residence: 1940 Magisterial District 3, Christian, Kentucky, United States	spouse: Raymond Ellis
Effie Ellis United States Census, 1940	birth: 1892 Ohio residence: 1940 Ward 1, Covington, Magisterial District 1, Kenton, Kentucky, United States	spouse: Jack Ellis

Match All Exactly Search Reset Form



Relationship: Spouse

Refine your search ▲

First Names

Last Names

Search by Life Events:
Any
Birth

Marriage Place

Year (Range)
From To

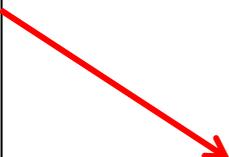
Residence
Death

Search by Relationships:

Spouse's First Names

Spouse's Last Names

Parents
 Match All Exactly



Robert N. Ellis Kentucky, Marriages, 1785-1979	marriage: 31 Dec 1863 , Shelby, Kentucky	spouse: Mary E. Lancaster
		groom's name: Robert N. Ellis bride's name: Mary E. Lancaster marriage date: 31 Dec 1863 marriage place: , Shelby, Kentucky indexing project (batch) number: M53129-2 system origin: Kentucky-ODM source film number: 259292

Tip # 4 : Add a Filter: Residence Place

Refine your search ▲

First Names

Last Names

Search by Life Events:
Any
Birth
Marriage
Residence
Death

Search by Relationships:
Spouse
Parents

Match All Exactly

- Filter your results by:
[Learn more](#)
- Collections ▶
 - Birthplace ▶
 - Birth Year ▶
 - Marriage Place ▶
 - Marriage Year ▶
 - Residence Place ▶**
 - Residence Year ▶
 - Death Place ▶
 - Death Year ▶
 - Other Place ▶
 - Other Year ▶
 - Gender ▶

Birth Year ▶

Marriage Place ▶

Marriage Year ▶

Residence Place ▶

Residence Year ▶

Death Place ▶

Death Year ▶

Other Place ▶

Asia & Middle East (4)
Australia & New Zealand (11)
Canada (124)
Caribbean, Central and South America (5)
Continental Europe (3)
United Kingdom and Ireland (695)
United States (5,584)

Birth Year ▶

Marriage Place ▶

Marriage Year ▶

Residence Place ▶

United States (5,584)

Residence Year ▶

Death Place ▶

Death Year ▶

Other Place ▶

Nadivab (32)
Kentucky (37)
Louisiana (70)
Maine (54)
Maryland (100)
Massachusetts (476)
Michigan (102)
Minnesota (174)
Mississippi (85)

Marriage Place ▶

Marriage Year ▶

Residence Place ▶

United States (102)

Michigan (102)

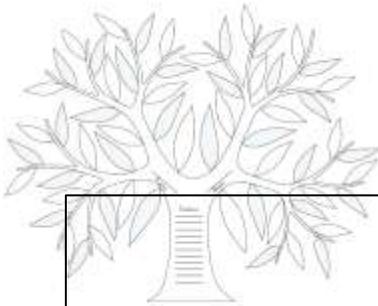
Residence Year ▶

Death Place ▶

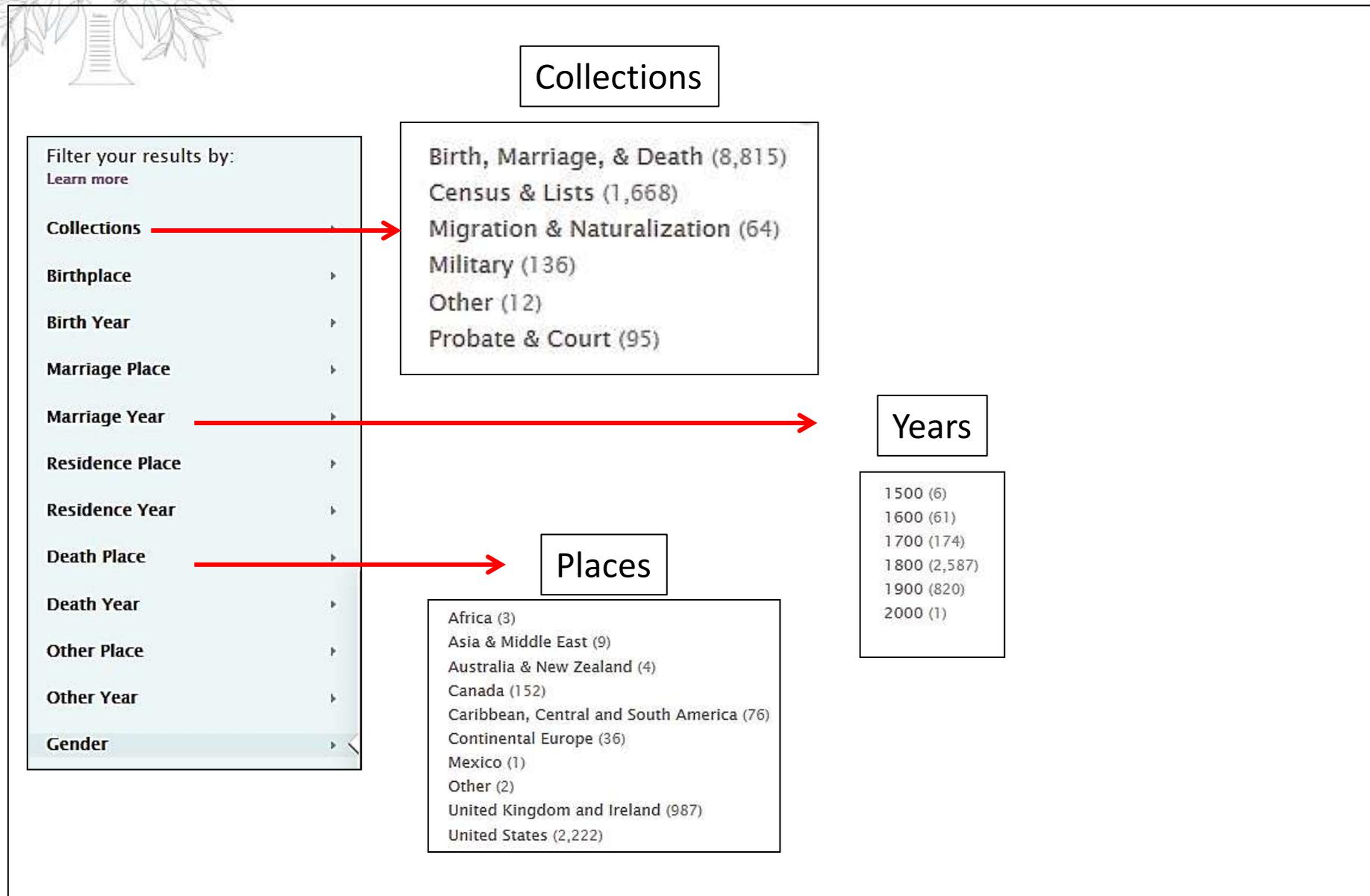
Death Year ▶

Other Place ▶

Livingston (2)
Marquette (1)
Mecosta (2)
Muskegon (1)
Newaygo (1)
Oakland (7)
Saginaw (5)
Shiawassee (1)
St. Clair (1)
Washtenaw (8)
Wayne (43)



Other Filters





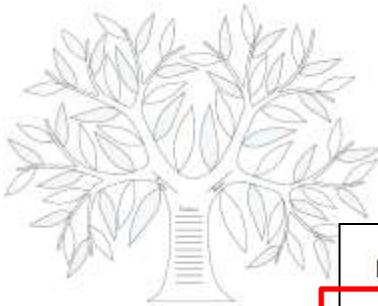
Using Filters

1. The number that is next to each filter in the box indicates how many records match that filter.
2. A filter is available only when it contains records that match your search.
3. You can combine as many different filters as you need. For example, you can use filters for birthplace, birth date, gender, and category at the same time. Currently, however, you cannot use two options within the same filter. For example, you cannot filter on more than one birthplace.
4. If you change the information in your search fields, your filters will be reset.
5. As you apply filters, remember that the effect of the filters is cumulative.
6. Each new filter is applied to the set of search results that are currently shown on the screen. For example, if you apply a birth date filter, the search results are limited to the records that match that filter. Applying a birthplace filter takes that limited set of results and reduces it to the records that match both the birthplace and birth date.
7. If you then decide to filter by death information, remove the birth filters so that you can apply death filters to your entire set of search results rather than to the search results that have already been limited by the birth filters.
8. If the filter does not help, click the **X** that appears next to the filter to remove it.
9. To start a completely new search, click **Reset form**



Research Summary

If you want to...	Then
Find parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know the names of the parents, search for all of the children.
Find Spouses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Search the name of the spouse you know.• Search women by both the maiden and married name.• Search a single collection (place and record type) and filter by marriage year.
Find children and/or siblings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know the names of the children, search for both names of the parents. This may bring a list of possible children and their siblings.• Search for children's death records.
Find maiden or married names	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use an event, such as marriage to find maiden and married names.• Use wildcards.
Find where a couple was married	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you don't know where a couple was married, search the place where the bride is from.• If that doesn't work, try where the groom was from.
Find when a couple was married	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you know when a couple's first child was born, estimate that the couple married about one year earlier.• Search a single record collection, such as marriage records from where you think the couple lived.



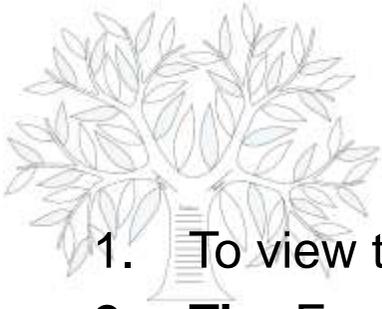
Tip #5: Browse Images

New York, Passenger Lists, 1820-1891	Browse Images	4 May 2011
New York, Probate Records, 1629-1971	Browse Images	23 Jun 2012
New York, Queens County Probate Records, 1899-1924	Browse Images	4 Oct 2012

New York, Probate Records, 1629-1971 > Schoharie

Volume Title and Year		
Letters of administration and testamentary 1812-1844 vol E	Letters of administration and testamentary 1844-1859 vol F	Letters of administration and testamentary 1860-1871 vol K
Letters of administration and testamentary 1868-1875 vol L	Letters of administration and testamentary 1875-1881 vol M	Letters of testamentary 1882-1898 vol I
Letters of testamentary 1897-1911 vol 2	Minutes 1872-1891 vol A-B	Orders 1872-1881 vol A
Orders 1872-1933 vol A	Orders 1873-1890 vol A	Orders 1881-1887 vol B
Orders 1887-1897 vol C-D	Orders 1890-1907 vol B	Orders 1897-1904 vol E
Probate of wills 1872-1885 vol A	Probate of wills 1885-1891 vol B	Wills 1829-1870 vol A-B
Wills 1830-1862 vol F and U	Wills 1862-1877 vol 8-9	Wills 1877-1883 vol 10
Wills 1883-1891 vol 11-12	Wills 1891-1913 vol 13-14	Wills 1898-1903 vol 15
Wills and testaments 1795-1829 vol A-C		

New York, Probate Records, 1629-1971										
County										
Albany	Allegany	Broome	Cattaraugus	Cayuga	Chautauqua	Chemung	Chenango	Clinton	Columbia	Cortland
Delaware	Dutchess	Erie	Essex	Franklin	Fulton	Genesee	Greene	Hamilton	Herkimer	Jefferson
Kings	Lewis	Livingston	Madison	Monroe	Montgomery	New York	Niagara	Oneida	Onondaga	Ontario
Orange	Orleans	Oswego	Otsego	Putnam	Queens	Rensselaer	Richmond	Rockland	Saratoga	Schenectady
Schoharie	Schuyler	Seneca	St. Lawrence	Steuben	Tioga	Tompkins	Ulster	Warren	Washington	Wayne
Westchester	Wyoming	Yates								



Tips for Viewing Images

1. To view the image, click the image or **View image**.
2. **Tip:** Even if the complete details screen contains the information you are looking for, view the image if there is one. Viewing the image provides these additional benefits:
 - The index may contain errors. Seeing the image lets you make sure that you have the correct information.
 - The image may contain more information.
 - Seeing the image can help make the individual seem more real.
3. If you need to sign in to see the image, click **Sign In**. After you enter your user name and password, you will return to this record.
4. To print the complete details, click **Print**, located in the upper right corner of the screen.
5. To save a copy of the image in .jpg format, click **Save image**.
6. To copy the details from the index, click **Copy**, located in the upper right corner of the screen. The name and other information is saved to your computer's clipboard. You can then paste the information into other computer programs.



What We Learned Today

1. Entering Names:

--Try adding spelling and language variations, try using wildcards; look for women using both a maiden name and married name.

2. Add a Life Event:

--Try your search with different events and no events; use the residence event to find records that identify where a person was living; estimate the year range with + or – 5 years.

3. Add a Relationship:

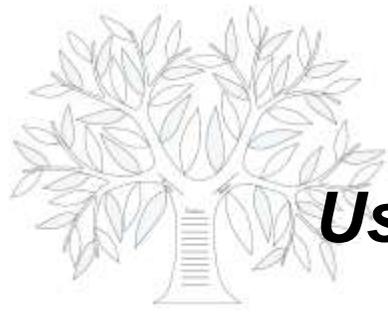
--Try searching for parents only which may pull up a list of possible siblings; try searching the spouse's name only.

4. Filter Your Results:

--Narrow down your results on the Results Page using the filters; Reset form to try a new search.

5. Browse Images:

--When all else fails, browse the file images relating to your ancestor, which are not indexed.



Next Month

December 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Using the Internet for Census Information

- Few, if any, records reveal as many details about individuals and families as the U.S. Federal Censuses.
- Census records are important sources for placing individuals in specific places at specific times.
- Information found in the census will often point to other sources critical to complete genealogical research, such as court, land, military, immigration, naturalization, and vital records.
- When family, vital, or religious records are missing, census records may be the only means of documenting the events of a person's life.
- Karen will point out sources for census data and some tips for finding your family in the census.

